

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch**

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
 - REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS

- Soybean, extra light & light amber, \$1.40

CALIFORNIA

- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.34 (small lot)
- Alfalfa/Cotton, extra light amber, \$1.20 (delayed payment)
- Buckwheat, extra light amber, \$1.33 - 1.34
- Buckwheat, light amber, \$1.24 --- amber, 99¢
- Buckwheat/Sage, extra light amber, \$1.15
- Clover, white, \$1.44
- Cotton, extra light amber, \$1.34
- Cotton, light amber, \$1.24 - 1.34 (higher price, small lot)
- Cotton, amber, \$1.19
- Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.10
- Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, \$1.05 - 1.15
(small lots)
- Sage, white, \$1.45 - 1.49

COLORADO

- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.39

FLORIDA

- Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.40
- Gallberry, light amber, \$1.30 - - - cut comb, \$1.50
- Mixed Wildflowers, extra light amber, \$1.05 - 1.10
- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.50
- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.40

IDAHO

- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.34-1.47 - - light amber, \$1.24
- Clover, white, \$1.50
- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.50 - - amber, \$1.25
- Mint, light amber, \$1.31
- Mint, amber, \$1.14 - 1.22 (lower price, small lots)

IOWA	- Clover, white, \$1.50
KANSAS	- Alfalfa, light amber \$1.30
LOUISIANA	- Floral Source Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25
MICHIGAN	- Floral Source Not Reported, white, \$1.50
MINNESOTA	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.39 - Basswood, white, \$1.50
MONTANA	- Clover, white, \$1.50 - 1.54 - Clover, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.39
NEBRASKA	- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.25 - 1.37 (lower price, small lot)
NEW YORK	- Floral Source Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.40
NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.35 - 1.50 - Clover, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.50 - Sunflower, light amber, \$1.25
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white & extra light amber, \$1.50 - 1.55 - Clover, white, \$1.25 (small lots)- - extra light amber, \$1.39 - Clover, light amber, \$1.20 (small lot)
OREGON	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.34 - 1.49 - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.14 - 1.25 - Clover, white, \$1.49 - Mint, light amber, \$1.24 - 1.28 - - - amber, \$1.22 - 1.24 - Sage, white, \$1.42
TEXAS	- Floral Source Not Reported, amber, \$1.20
UTAH	- Alfalfa, amber, \$1.19
WASHINGTON	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.40 - - - extra light amber, \$1.34 - Basin Mix, extra light amber, \$1.28 - Blackberry, white, \$1.50 - Clover, white, \$1.49 - Fireweed, white, \$1.50 - Star Thistle, extra light amber, \$1.38
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.45 - 1.50 (small lots)

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

- Clover, white, \$1.50

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 92¢
	MEXICO	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.00
	THAILAND	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.12
		- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.09
WEST COAST.....	CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.02

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER

CALIFORNIA 999

The State experienced unsettled, winter weather during December. Record highs were established on the 6th when Bakersfield rose to 72 degrees. From the 1st to the 7th, Redding accumulated 2.5" of rain. Heavy precipitation continued through the 13th when conditions turned stormy as Redding recorded wind gusts of 56 mph and heavy snows fell in the mountains. Temperatures were fairly normal across the state with highs in the upper 50's in Northern California and 70's further south. On the 16th, Santa Barbara set a record low when they dropped to 28 degrees but two days later, some areas were setting record highs when they climbed into the low 70's. Three days before Christmas, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake hit an area between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Through the 25th, heavy rains covered Southern California with accumulations of over 8" in some of the mountains. Mudslides caused heavy damage in the same areas where fires a month ago destroyed the vegetation that would ordinarily hold the soil. Temperatures during the period were fairly normal with daytime highs in the north reaching the 60's while further south they were mostly in the 70's.

The condition of both local and out-of-state bees is reported to be variable. Some are in very good condition for this time of year while others are in very poor shape. There are concerns that there will be a shortage of bees for the almond pollination. Either the bees are not strong enough to meet the growers standards or in some cases, out-of-state bees aren't coming in because of the high price of honey and concerns they won't be able to enter California if they have fire ants. Rental fees paid by the almond growers will probably be higher this year. Looking ahead, large areas of land used as summer holding locations, were lost in the fires so beekeepers will be looking for other places to set their bees.

Packers reported they were not being offered huge amounts of honey but enough to fill their orders. Prices have declined slightly on some extra light and light amber honey. Handlers are being flooded with wax but most are not buying or are taking it in for trade on supplies only.

GEORGIA 999

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition with most beekeepers around the state continuing to feed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies on the basis of need. Colonies are close to the bottom of the normal cycle of population reduction. There were no significant sources of pollen or nectar available as December ended. Weather during December was seasonally cold with some warming toward the end of the month. Moisture levels around the state remained adequate.

IDAHO 999

The weather has been seasonably cold and snowy with high winds at times. Bees that have remained in the state are safely ensconced in their hives. The hives are in storage with controlled atmosphere ventilation. Some

bees have been moved to almond orchards in California. Those bees still in Idaho are scheduled to go to California anywhere from the middle to the end of January.

ILLINOIS 999

Most areas reported very little snowfall during the month. Temperatures were mild the first of the month with daily high temperatures in the 40's in the northern section and high 50's were reported in central and southern sections. Northern areas received some rainfall during the month; however, most areas reported the dry conditions that began in the fall still persisted. Southern and central sections of the state received adequate rainfall; however, snowfall was very light. The state has not recorded any overnight temperatures lower than in the mid 20's which is unusual for this time of year.

The colonies around the state were in good condition due to the mild weather and beekeepers had supplemental feeding in full swing. Very little mite problems has been reported.

Honey demand was reported well due to holiday baking demand and retail prices for honey have been stable.

INDIANA 999

Warmer than normal temperatures were reported the first of the month over most of the state. Daytime highs of mid to upper 50's and overnight lows in the high 30's were beneficial as bees overwintering has been going well. Varied snowfall amounts were been reported. Most of the state received very light snowfall with the exception of the northern section where lake effect snows were reported heavy to normal. Honeybees were in generally good condition with little mite problems reported.

Retail honey sales were reported well. Bulk honey movement was sluggish due to little honey in beekeepers hands.

MISSISSIPPI 999

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition with most beekeepers around the state continuing to feed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies on the basis of need. Colonies are close to the bottom of the normal cycle of population reduction in the southern portion of the state but may reduce still further during January in the central and northern portions of the state. There were no significant sources of pollen or nectar available as December ended. Weather during December was seasonally cold with some warming toward the end of the month. Moisture levels around the state remained adequate.

MONTANA 999

Much needed rain fell in parts of Montana on the 7th but a week later, Cut Bank set a record high of 54 degrees. During that same week, a low-pressure system brought a wind and dust storm to the already dry plains. Finally, the last full week of the year, heavy snow fell in most areas. Parts of Western and Central Montana accumulated as much as 20".

Bees that are wintered in the State continue to be set in open fields or in some cases, stacked inside of buildings. Migratory beekeepers went to California during December to check on their colonies. There were reports that the early loads that went down aren't in the best condition because it was too warm when they first arrived.

NORTH CAROLINA 999

The western part of North Carolina received record rains during the 2003 crop year causing millions of dollars in crops and property damage. However, it has ended a four year drought that the area has suffered. The heaviest rains were received in early spring in the mountains, causing it to be rough on the fruit and berry growers. Some areas in the eastern part of the state reported its wettest year ever with as much as 62.31 inches received during the year. With the drought ended, the outlook is more promising for the farmers and beekeepers. The colonies seem to be in generally good shape going into the New Year with not much activity to report.

OREGON 999

December was a fairly wet month in Oregon. Between the 1st and 7th, Salem received a record 2.41" of rain. On the 10th, Pendleton received a daily-record 1.3" of snow. On the 12th & 13th, Florence measured 3.37" of rain within those 24 hours. Additional precipitation, in the form of rain and snow continued throughout the month.

Most Migratory beekeepers, especially in Western Oregon, finished stacking hives together and wrapping them so they are all ready to take to California for the almond pollination the first part of February. A few colonies were taken directly from summer locations in other states, to California for the winter.

UTAH 999

The vast majority of bees are in California getting ready for almonds in February. Most of them are expected back in Utah in March and April. Retail sales were good for the holidays.

WASHINGTON 999

The rains continued into the first two weeks of December, especially in Western Washington. Adding to the soggy conditions, a severe windstorm on the 4th pounded the area just across the Cascade Mountains south of Seattle. Gusts of 80 mph toppled trees, closed roads and knocked out power to almost 200,000 homes and businesses. By the 17th, Seattle was setting a record high of 54 degrees.

Bees in Western Washington are reported to be in good condition as they are used to the wet winters. Occasionally daytime highs were warm enough for the bees to leave their hives for cleansing flights. Filbert trees continued to bloom and provided a good food source. Sales of local honey at specialty shops and Christmas festivals was very good last month.

Most migratory beekeepers went to California during December to check on the condition of their bees. Colonies were fed and treated if necessary. There are planning another trip in January before they are moved into the almonds the first of February. Because potential shortages are anticipated for almond pollination, growers are paying more to rent bees this year.

WISCONSIN 999

The month of December, temperatures were above normal. Snowfall amounts were spotty with some areas receiving very little measurable accumulation. Beekeepers increased supplemental feeding due to the mild temperatures and little stores from the fall flow.

The end of the month beekeeping activity included attending local beekeeper association meetings and repairing of equipment.

Honey and wax sales were reported well due to holiday baking demand.

	OCTOBER		YEAR TO DATE 2003	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
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COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	---	---	20,436	26,157
Guatemala	---	---	589	2,573
Panama	---	---	1,140	5,147
Bermuda	1,504	8,224	1,504	8,224
Jamaica	3,965	5,200	3,965	5,200
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,076	4,334
Barbados	---	---	863	3,689
Northern Antilles	---	---	3,301	11,641
Aruba	---	---	2,165	13,546
United Kingdom	---	---	816	3,000
Netherlands	---	---	1,009	3,665
France	---	---	1,181	4,515
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Turkey	2,500	5,100	2,500	5,100
Israel	---	---	3,103	10,000
Jordan	1,089	4,450	1,089	4,450
Kuwait	127,253	166,919	369,427	570,012
Saudi Arabia	---	---	242,626	367,282
Arab Emirates	---	---	139,213	182,607
Yemen	6,027	8,347	52,749	50,622
Bahrain	---	---	12,373	16,229
Cambodia	---	---	1,143	6,185
Malaysia	7,385	9,686	14,770	19,372
Singapore	---	---	19,958	26,179
Philippines	21,198	27,805	112,883	178,287
China	3,561	12,620	8,113	28,350
Korean Republic	---	---	118,092	157,900
Hong Kong	640	3,474	21,030	56,245
Taiwan	---	---	3,716	12,108
Japan	23,891	34,966	192,657	267,768
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TOTAL	199,013	286,791	1,355,321	2,055,894

Exports continued...

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE

Canada	54,684	127,076	507,291	1,085,392
Mexico	---	---	1,160	6,682
Costa Rica	19,782	11,726	22,776	23,210
Panama	---	---	2,360	10,292
Bermuda	---	---	1,654	7,128
Bahamas	---	---	7,088	28,806
Jamaica	---	---	2,268	8,799
Barbados	---	---	6,246	23,109
Northern Antilles	---	---	816	4,369
Aruba	---	---	3,030	11,812
Chile	---	---	1,723	8,966
Netherlands	---	---	7,947	23,624
Germany	36,998	35,121	60,468	91,090
Armenia	---	---	14,944	25,867
Israel	---	---	328	2,665
Singapore	---	---	13,202	25,800
Indonesia	---	---	100,949	257,953
Philippines	5,328	22,239	6,578	26,900
China	---	---	39,751	102,751
Korean Republic	---	---	37,169	133,873
Japan	58,161	207,297	127,981	328,628
Australia	14,536	32,900	25,418	60,900
TOTAL	189,484	436,359	988,945	2,289,984

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

Canada	---	---	24,813	64,607
Mexico	---	---	18,663	30,178
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600	31,620
Peru	---	---	20,100	34,170
Spain	---	---	186,002	360,840
Indonesia	---	---	37,200	37,200
China	---	---	1,172,745	2,310,100
TOTAL	---	---	1,478,123	2,868,715

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	O C T O B E R 2 0 0 3			Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3		
	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.
	kilograms	VALUE	VALUE	kilograms	VALUE	VALUE
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		dollars	dollars		dollars	dollars

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE

Canada	746,467	2,450,312	2,458,138	8,382,038	27,812,382	28,008,392
Mexico	302,613	749,184	762,322	943,467	2,668,999	2,721,223
Peru	---	---	---	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile	---	---	---	1,986,913	5,195,624	5,357,554
Brazil	20,316	42,725	44,715	1,076,457	2,691,447	2,824,233

Imports continued

Uruguay	13,219	40,662	46,662	559,007	1,593,461	1,631,232
Argentina	---	---	---	3,524,677	8,858,669	9,219,650
United Kingdom	2,952	8,181	8,476	13,058	38,419	39,811
Germany	---	---	---	36,850	87,905	90,580
Australia	---	---	---	680	2,742	3,021
Czech Republic	38,409	101,783	108,667	69,479	184,119	195,303
Hungary	18,000	52,197	53,982	180,000	466,811	483,246
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	75,450	161,908	174,760	128,178	241,417	263,485
Spain	720	6,868	6,994	1,024	8,941	9,114
Romania	---	---	---	105,818	272,252	286,186
Turkey	---	---	---	55,627	117,291	122,632
India	---	---	---	1,613,763	3,769,722	4,037,654
Pakistan	38,662	58,103	65,985	229,963	337,122	375,353
Vietnam	---	---	---	415,580	905,473	961,225
China, Mainland	1,992,246	2,936,197	3,226,319	5,700,461	8,470,823	9,172,667
Australia	---	---	---	19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand	---	---	---	800	4,347	4,600
TOTAL	3,210,645	6,506,337	6,848,953	25,047,536	63,794,160	65,874,348

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico	57,994	154,685	158,285	457,114	1,284,058	1,316,983
Peru	18,600	39,990	42,440	18,600	39,990	42,440
Chile	---	---	---	502,614	1,377,015	1,425,273
Brazil	24,910	61,992	65,982	583,123	1,346,806	1,404,613
Uruguay	18,360	51,800	54,000	938,891	2,639,949	1,702,729
Argentina	---	---	---	583,866	1,400,908	1,462,938
Germany	---	---	---	1,182	6,899	6,968
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574
Czechoslovakia	36,308	95,828	99,812	36,308	95,828	99,812
Ukraine	17,697	41,589	45,036	17,695	41,589	45,036
Romania	18,760	42,009	42,507	18,760	42,009	42,507
Turkey	---	---	---	155,568	398,166	418,386
India	---	---	---	1,090,800	2,424,055	2,518,118
Pakistan	---	---	---	19,000	27,550	30,491
Vietnam	18,845	30,729	31,226	531,229	988,168	1,048,946
Indonesia	---	---	---	18,560	38,976	43,476
China	776,040	1,058,783	1,164,106	3,550,686	5,592,332	6,023,040
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	---	---	---	237,808	441,697	467,353
TOTAL	987,514	1,577,405	1,703,394	8,931,035	18,746,847	19,671,027

Imports continued

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	73,912	184,615	186,620	289,290	853,353	862,343
Mexico	126,839	312,231	321,757	2,996,050	7,828,506	8,036,071
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	898	2,640	2,736
Venezuela	6,143	38,189	39,124	6,143	38,189	39,124
Peru	107,511	245,902	256,359	872,805	1,798,943	1,882,154
Chile	---	---	---	1,965,089	5,066,343	5,236,885
Brazil	819,772	1,785,897	1,884,839	4,033,754	9,306,153	9,772,697
Uruguay	---	---	---	3,646,394	9,901,995	10,191,104
Argentina	38,398	88,315	93,315	262,189	579,080	606,017
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
United Kingdom	---	---	---	118	3,314	3,628
France	---	---	---	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	44,210	170,835	173,295	178,166	610,062	685,605
Czech Republic	---	---	---	74,053	195,467	203,435
Hungary	---	---	---	25,800	84,495	86,780
Switzerland	8,370	33,145	35,145	8,941	37,360	39,361
Latvia	---	---	---	1,260	2,134	2,364
Ukraine	113,202	238,589	254,837	556,260	1,258,168	1,328,108
Kazakhstan	20,000	43,522	46,219	20,000	43,522	46,219
Moldova	---	---	---	164,040	336,142	350,927
Italy	---	---	---	2,729	12,803	13,439
Romania	132,060	305,161	319,097	639,187	1,511,579	1,583,141
Bulgaria	37,990	91,205	93,207	509,570	1,158,285	1,235,610
Turkey	42,000	79,800	79,802	1,364,445	3,273,269	3,445,356
India	279,879	578,716	598,382	1,622,273	3,264,526	3,467,505
Pakistan	---	---	---	38,636	59,994	62,300
Burma	---	---	---	56,250	69,075	75,017
Thailand	78,000	178,920	189,815	667,021	1,616,126	1,691,801
Vietnam	389,487	686,228	731,955	6,146,207	12,628,624	13,416,986
Malaysia	---	---	---	2,613,849	4,524,740	4,963,125
Indonesia	18,000	36,684	39,960	18,000	26,684	39,960
China	1,941,260	2,789,573	3,040,539	9,762,101	14,521,868	15,764,024
New Zealand	10,260	86,824	90,902	96,758	371,397	384,665
Egypt	---	---	---	23,415	40,568	44,265
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356
TOTAL	4,287,293	7,974,351	8,475,169	38,693,922	81,129,724	85,663,382

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	20,140	54,851	54,951	153,932	343,796	348,405
Mexico	236,172	671,902	680,690	2,185,890	5,835,079	5,878,167
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	211,168	208,127	225,312
Colombia	---	---	---	19,656	35,970	37,970
Peru	---	---	---	2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile	---	---	---	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	---	---	---	587,819	1,376,416	1,438,170
Uruguay	---	---	---	117,783	310,077	318,038
Argentina	2,773	3,240	3,973	14,731	40,179	42,618
United Kingdom	---	---	---	106	2,374	2,600

Imports continued...

Netherlands	---	---	---	75,199	336,587	337,031
France	---	---	---	2,051	15,113	16,228
Austria	---	---	---	6,963	42,656	48,389
Switzerland	978	9,631	9,998	20,078	145,158	151,085
Russia	---	---	---	3,585	16,217	17,769
Ukraine	---	---	---	21,246	57,323	60,381
Spain	---	---	---	6,283	20,895	22,395
Portugal	2,100	10,105	10,598	6,960	16,951	17,846
Italy	---	---	---	5,119	14,489	15,906
Greece	164	2,258	2,362	922	7,597	7,972
Turkey	57,038	114,308	121,308	72,001	152,108	161,983
Israel	---	---	---	10,990	63,285	66,794
India	---	---	---	353,400	819,159	933,275
Thailand	---	---	---	36,000	63,000	63,090
Vietnam	---	---	---	187,180	336,078	359,736
Hong Kong	---	---	---	5,400	23,364	23,971
Taiwan	---	---	---	33,584	50,818	54,489
TOTAL	319,365	866,295	883,880	4,273,771	10,755,947	11,089,465

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION